

sportsmen who have had ample opportunities of studying the habits of the Hazel Grouse, it is always monogamous, and that when paired the pair remain strictly faithful to each other. Therefore I have never heard of a Hazel cock having been seen at a "lek" of the Black Grouse, though the male Willow Grouse has been known to attend there, and to take ample advantage of his opportunities. I can only surmise that the present hybrid has been the result of a Hazel cock which had failed in finding a mate, having paired with some Grey Hen met with during his solitary wanderings.

3. On the Genus *Dasyprocta*; with Description of a New Species. By EDWARD R. ALSTON, F.L.S., F.G.S., F.Z.S.

[Received March 11, 1876.]

(Plate XXIX.)

My attention has been lately turned to the Mammals of Central America; and I have hence been led to review all the known species of the genus *Dasyprocta*, concerning the characters and distribution of which a good deal of confusion has existed. Through the kindness of Mr. Selater and Dr. Günther I have been enabled to compare the skins of a number of Agoutis which have died from time to time in the Society's Gardens with the specimens in the British Museum, and believe that I am now able to arrange the various forms with some approach to general correctness.

The range of the genus *Dasyprocta* extends throughout a considerable part of the Neotropical Region, from the Antilles and Mexico in the north to Brazil and Paraguay in the south. Within these limits there exist a number of well-marked but nearly allied geographical races, of which eight or nine appear to deserve specific distinction. As might be expected in such closely related forms, I have been unable to find any constant cranial distinctions, and have been compelled to depend on outward characters, of which I have found the coloration of the long hairs of the rump to be the most trustworthy. Owing to the confusion which has existed as to some of these species, and to the carelessness of collectors and museum-curators as to locality, it is very difficult to make out the exact distribution of the various races of Agouti; but I have endeavoured to note what little information we possess.

The following, then, is the principal synonymy, with brief diagnoses and habitats, of the various Agoutis, beginning with a well-marked species, which appears never to have been described, and which I propose to call:—

1. *DASYPROCTA ISTHMICA*, sp. n.

Fur ringed with black and yellow; rump black, more or less washed with orange or yellow, the long hairs being black at the base, scarcely annulated except close to the tips, which are broadly

marginated with the light colour; feet dusky. Length about 22 in., hind foot 4.25 in.

Hab. Central America.

This Agouti is at once distinguished from all the others which have black and yellow annulated fur, by the long hairs of the rump being black with broad pale tips. Seven or eight individuals of both sexes agree in all essential characters, but differ slightly in the colour of the tips of the long hairs, and consequently in the general colour of the rump. The exact distribution of the species is still uncertain. Several living examples have been received from Colon by the Society, which have hitherto been referred to *D. punctata**; and it appears probable that the Agouti of Costa Rica which Dr. von Frantzius calls *D. cristata*† will prove to be the same.

2. *D. CRISTATA*.

Cavia cristata (Geoffroy), Desmarest, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* i. p. 215 (1816, descr. orig.).

Dasyprocta cristata, Desmarest, *Mamm.* p. 358; Waterhouse, *Mamm.* ii. p. 383; Wagner, *Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth.* iv. p. 41.

Dasyprocta antillensis, Sclater, *P. Z. S.* 1874, p. 666, pl. lxxxii (descr. orig.).

Fur very dark, ringed with black and reddish or brownish yellow, nuchal tuft and rump black, the long hairs either dusky or obscurely ringed at the base. Length about 18 in.; hind foot 3.75 in.

Hab. West Indies.

The West-Indian Agouti for which Mr. Sclater proposed the provisional name of *D. antillensis*, is identical with the specimens which Mr. Waterhouse identified with Desmarest's *D. cristata*, and seems to agree perfectly with the original descriptions. The phrase *pelage noirâtre, piqué de roux*, is particularly characteristic; and I am convinced that Mr. Waterhouse was correct, although the figure in F. Cuvier and Geoffroy's 'Mammifères' (iii. livr. 52) gives the idea of a lighter animal. The species was founded on a pair of Agoutis in the Jardin des Plantes, which were said to have been received from Surinam. There can be little doubt, however, that this was an error, and that the species is a strictly insular race. The Society has received living specimens from St. Vincent and St. Lucia; and there are skins from St. Thomas in the British Museum. In one example from the first-named island, the hairs of the rump are obscurely ringed at the base, and the nuchal crest is but little developed.

3. *D. VARIEGATA*.

Dasyprocta variegata, Von Tschudi, *Faun. Peru.* p. 190, pl. xvi. (1844, descr. orig.).

Fur dusky at base, black, ringed with pale yellow only near the tip, the long hairs of the nape and rump entirely black, or with a narrow pure white ring near the tip. Length about 22 inches, hind foot 4 inches.

Hab. Peru, New Granada, Panama?

* (*Cf.* Sclater, *P. Z. S.* 1874, p. 666) † (*Cf.* Wiegman, *Arch.* 1869, p. 274.)

Mr. Waterhouse united the Peruvian Agouti with *D. cristata*; but it is a well-marked species, easily distinguishable by the fur being annulated only near the tip. According to Von Tschudi it inhabits the forests and "ceja" regions of Eastern Peru, to an altitude of 6000 feet above the sea. The Society has received living specimens from Colon, the exact locality of which is uncertain; and Mr. E. Gerrard, Jun., has kindly lent me two fine examples collected by Mr. Salmon at Medellin, near Antioquia, New Granada. It is probable that the Agouti obtained by Mr. Fraser, at Palhatanga, Equador, which Mr. Tomes referred to *D. caudata* (*D. azaræ*)* was really of this species.

4. *D. FULIGINOSA*.

Dasyprocta fuliginosa, Wagler, Isis, 1832, p. 1220 (descr. orig.); Waterhouse, Mamm. ii. p. 385.

Dasyprocta nigricans (Natterer), Wagner, Wiegmann Arch. 1842, p. 362 (descr. orig.); Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth. iv. p. 46.

Dasyprocta nigra, Gray, Ann. Nat. Hist. x. p. 264 (1842, descr. orig.), Voy. 'Sulphur,' p. 36, pl. xvi.

Fur ringed with brownish or sooty black and pure white; rump hoary, the very long and soft hairs being broadly tipped and often ringed at the base with white. Length about 23 inches; hind foot 4·75 inches.

Hab. Amazonia; Peru; Ecuador†.

Wagner and Waterhouse have shown that the above are merely synonyms of this large dark species. Wagler described it from specimens collected on the Brazilian Amazons; and Natterer obtained it at Borba and on the Rio Nigro. Mr. Selater has a skin collected by Mr. E. Bartlett, at Chamicuros, on the Peruvian Amazons; and a specimen obtained in Ecuador, by Mr. Fraser, was referred to this species by Mr. Tomes.

5. *D. MEXICANA*.

Dasyprocta mexicana, De Saussure, Rev. et Mag. de Zool. (2^e sér.), xii. p. 53 (1860, descr. orig.).

Fur ringed with black and pure white, the rump black, the long hairs being black throughout their length, throat and belly almost white. Average length 17 inches; hind foot 3·50 inches.

Hab. Mexico.

As remarked by its first describer, this species most resembles *D. fuliginosa*. It differs, however, in its much smaller size, its darker coloration, and in the less elongated hairs of the rump being black throughout from the base to the tip. It is a native of the "hot zone" of Mexico; and a specimen is now living in the Society's Gardens, presented by Mr. Marckmann de Lichtel, in February 1874‡.

6. *D. AZARÆ*. (Plate XXIX.)

Dasyprocta azaræ, Lichtenstein, Doubl. Zool. Mus. Berl. p. 3

* P. Z. S. 1860, p. 216.

† Cf. P. Z. S. 1860, p. 216.

‡ Cf. P. Z. S. 1874, p. 683.

(1823, descr. orig.); Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth. iv. p. 38; Waterhouse, Mamm. ii. p. 387.

Dasyprocta caudata, Lund, K. Dansk. Vidensk. viii. p. 297 (1841, descr. orig.).

Fur ringed with black and yellow, nearly uniform throughout, slightly darker on the back and often hoary on the rump; the long hairs ringed to the base; throat and breast pure yellow. Length 20 inches; hind foot 3.30.

Hab. S. Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia.

This is the most southern species of Agouti, replacing the more northern *N. aguti* in the province of St. Paulo, Brazil, where Natterer found it in great numbers. If Wagner is right, however, in uniting Lund's *D. caudata* with the present species, its range extends a little further north, into the Province of Minas Geraes. Southwards it is found, according to Dr. Burmeister, throughout southern Brazil and Paraguay, but does not extend beyond the Rio de la Plata*. In Bolivia, Mr. Waterhouse says that it was found by Mr. Bridges, near Santa Cruz de la Sierra, where it is called *Hoché colorado* by the inhabitants.

As I hope to have another opportunity of figuring the Central-American Agoutis, I have chosen this species, of which I am not acquainted with any good representation, as the subject of the accompanying Plate (Plate XXIX.).

7. *D. PUNCTATA*.

Dasyprocta punctata, Gray, Ann. Nat. Hist. x. p. 264 (1842, descr. orig.), Voy. 'Sulphur,' p. 36, pl. xv.

Fur ringed with black, and either bright rufous or yellow, uniform throughout, hairs of rump scarcely elongated, ringed to the base; breast and lower parts also annulated, except a pale median line on the abdomen. Length about 22 inches; hind foot 4 inches.

Hab. Guatemala, Costa Rica.

Skins collected by Mr. Salvin in Guatemala differ much in ruddiness, from a bright chestnut to a pale yellow. The latter agree exactly with the types of Gray's *D. punctata* (from "Tropical America"). They so much resemble *D. azaræ* that one might be inclined to follow Wagner and Waterhouse in uniting them, were it not for the vast difference in their geographical position†. Even the pale examples of *D. punctata* may be always distinguished from the Brazilian form by the larger size, the still more uniform coloration, and the annulation of the fur on the chest; and I have never seen a specimen of *D. azaræ* which showed a trace of the rich ruddy tints which seem to be normal in the Guatemalan form. The Society has also received this species from Costa Rica.

8. *D. AGUTI*.

Mus aguti, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 80 (1766, descr. orig.).

* Thiere Brasil. p. 233.

† Cf. Mr. Salvin's remarks on some analogous facts in the distribution of birds (Ibis, 1872, pp. 147-152).

Dasyprocta aguti, Desmarest, Mamm. p. 358; F. Cuvier et Geoffroy, Mamm. iii. 3^{me} liv.; Waterhouse, Mamm. ii. p. 376; Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth. iv. p. 42.

Fur ringed with black and yellow; rump bright yellow or orange, the long hairs pale yellow at their base, and only obscurely ringed near the tip. Length about 20 inches.

Guiana, N. Brazil, E. Peru.

The range* of the Yellow-rumped Agouti is particularly difficult to make out, as its specific name has been applied to almost every member of the genus. It extends, however, from British Guiana, where Schomburgk* says it is extremely common, through North Brazil, where Natterer collected specimens near the junction of the Madeira and Amazons, to Eastern Peru. In the latter country Von Tschudi says that it inhabits the plains, and does not go up into the mountains like *D. fuliginosa*.

9. D. PRYMNOLOPHA.

Dasyprocta prymnolopha, Wagler, Isis, 1831, p. 619 (descr. orig.); Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth. iv. p. 46; Waterhouse, Mamm. ii. p. 380.

Fur ringed with black and yellow; nuchal crest and a longitudinal band on the rump black, sides of the rump rich golden orange or rufous; the long black hair uniform in colour, or light yellow at the base. Length about 20 inches; hind foot 3.75.

Hab. Guiana.

Of the distribution of this most beautiful species I have been unable to learn any thing beyond the fact of its being a native of Guiana. It is probably a more northern race than the last, and may extend into Venezuela. Many examples are now living in the Society's Gardens.

10. D. ACOUCHY.

Cavia acouchy, Erxleben, Syst. Reg. An. p. 354 (1777, descr. orig.).

Dasyprocta acouchy, Desmarest, Mamm. ii. p. 358; Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugeth. iv. p. 48; Waterhouse, Mamm. ii. p. 391.

Fur ringed with dark brown and rufous, upper parts darker, lower parts and a spot behind each ear bright rufous or yellow. Tail produced, slender, slightly haired. Length about 14 inches, tail 2 inches, hind foot 3 inches.

Hab. Guiana, N. Brazil.

This little species, easily distinguished from all the rest by its having a complete tail, instead of merely a tuberculous rudiment, is abundant in Guiana and North Brazil; but I have been unable to find any proof of the often repeated assertion that it is also met with in some of the West-Indian Islands. Probably it has been confused with *D. cristata*.

Of the remaining described species, *D. croconota*, Wagler (Isis

* Reisen in Brit. Guiana, iii. p. 779.

1831, p. 618), appears to have been founded on an individual variation of *D. aguti* with white incisors; *D. albida*, Gray (Ann. Nat. Hist. x. p. 264) is probably, as Mr. Sclater has suggested*, an accidental variety of the Antillean Agouti which I have here referred to *D. cristata*; and, finally, Mr. Waterhouse was no doubt correct in regarding "*D. leptura*, Natterer" (Wagner, Schreb. Säug. iv. p. 49) and *D. exilis*, Wagler (Isis, 1831, p. 619), as being merely synonyms of *D. acouchi*.

4. On new Species of Bolivian Birds. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph. D., F.R.S., and OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.R.S.

[Received April 3, 1876.]

(Plates XXX.-XXXIII.)

The following new species of birds are founded on specimens contained in a collection recently formed in Bolivia by Mr. C. Buckley. Nearly the whole of this collection was made in the province of Yungas, in a forest-clad spur of the Andes which extends in a north-easterly direction between the Rio de la Paz and the Rio Coroico, affluents of the Rio Beni and then of the great tributary of the Amazon the Rio Madeira. Mr. Buckley's head quarters in this district was a place called Tilotilo, a mere group of Ranchos not indicated on any map. The country he explored included a great range of elevation, extending from about 3000 feet to 12000 feet above the sea-level, and consequently considerable variation of climate and vegetation, the rich forests so characteristic of the eastern slopes of the Andes forming the chief feature. The collection, which contains between 400 and 500 skins of about 194 species, has passed into the hands of Messrs. Salvin and Godman. The following are the species in it which we consider to be undescribed.

1. CATHARUS MENTALIS, sp. nov.

Supra saturate fumoso-brunneus unicolor, alis caudaque paulo obscurioribus: subtus schistaceus medialiter dilutior, ventre medio fere albo; mento et gula cum genis brunneo indutis: rostro aurantiaco; pedibus pallide corylinis: long. tota 6.5, alæ 3.3, caudæ 3.2, tarsi 1.3, rostri 0.95.

Hab. "Snake" prope "Tilotilo" prov. Yungas, Bolivia.

Obs. Similis *C. fuscato*, sed mento brunnescente et colore corporis superi fuscescentiore distinguendus.

2. BASILEUTERUS EUOPHRYS, sp. nov.

Supra olivaceo-viridis unicolor: superciliis latis et corpore subtus flavis: loris, pilco medio et regione oculari nigris: rostro nigro: pedibus pallidis: long. tota 5.5, alæ 2.7, caudæ 2.6, tarsi 0.95,

* P. Z. S. 1874, p. 666.